to 1948 wherever plantations were raised in widely separated localities affecting both Government and private plantations and the casualties are due to adverse climatic factors, viz., the 1945 drought, the 1946 floods, the short spell of severe hot weather that prevailed in June 1947 and the complete failure of the north-east monsoon in July 1947, the cumulative effect of which has caused mortality in varying degrees wherever casuarina is raised.

" (c) Yes.

" (d) Under the Post-war Reconstruction proposals, the target figure for raising casuarina throughout the Province—not all of it necessarily to be departmental planting—has been fixed at 150,000 acres on a 10-year rotation of 15,000 acres per year. With this end in view, plantations have been taken up in certain forest divisions mostly in coastal areas and also in the Cauvery Coleroon padugais. Interior areas selected in the Tanjore revenue district for raising casuarina have been handed over to villagers and co-operative societies for casuarina planting. New areas have also been selected in suitable localities in the northern taluks of Tiruchirappalli revenue district. The possibility of reserving areas for casuarina plantations in or near Bellary district is under investigation. So far 21,573 acres have already been planted with casuarina."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" Is any assistance given to private persons interested in raising casuarina plantation? "

THE HON. SRI K. MADHAVA MENON :—" Wherever technical advice is sought, it is given. Whoever asks for the seedlings of casuarina trees, they are given."

[175 Q. and 176 Q. were already answered—Please see pages 809 and 810.]

The Madras Drugs Rules.

* 177 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Madras Drugs Rules have been promulgated;

(b) what the arrangements are for their enforcement;

(c) whether a retail dealer of drugs who deals in drugs either in bulk or loose and does not undertake dispensing is required to employ a compounder;

(d) whether licences have been cancelled for not appointing compounders; and

(e) whether the compounders appointed should all be fully qualified?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Yes, from 1st April 1947.

" (b) The Surgeon-General has been appointed as the Provincial Drugs Controller and Licensing Authority. A separate drugs section has been formed in the Surgeon-General's office for

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administrative and executive work under the immediate charge of a Civil Surgeon who has been appointed to assist the Surgeon-General in the discharge of his functions as the licensing authority and for the purpose of inspection of manufacture of drugs other than those mentioned in Schedules C and C-1 of the Drugs Rules, 1945. One separate Special Department of Biological Control has been formed in the King Institute, Guindy, for analytical work connected with the enforcement of the Drugs Act and the Rules with necessary staff. The laboratory is not yet fully equipped. The District Medical Officers and the Gazetted Medical Assistants have been appointed as ex-officio inspectors for the purpose of inspection of retail shops in their respective districts.

"(*c*) Purely wholesale dealers are not expected to have qualified compounders. But if they include retail sale of E and H drugs (poisonous drugs) they should have one or more compounders.

"(*d*) No.

"(*e*) They should hold either the diploma obtained on successful completion of the prescribed course for a year or the diploma marked 'private' issued by the Surgeon-General in favour of private candidates who have come out successful in any of the three examinations conducted after the promulgation of the Drugs Rules."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"Are the Government aware how difficult it is to get qualified compounders even for dispensaries run by them?" 11-45 a.m.

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"The Government are aware of the dearth of qualified compounders, Sir. That is why the rates of stipends for compounders have been increased both in the city and in the mufassal and the number of training centres has also been increased with a view to train more compounders and the age-limit for compounders has also been raised as a further inducement."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—"May I know, Sir, whether it is not desirable that, till a sufficient number of qualified compounders become available, not to enforce the rules strictly and prosecute the licensees unnecessarily?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"If the dealers do not appoint qualified compounders, their licences are not immediately cancelled. They are given a specified time within which to secure the services of qualified compounders; otherwise, they are asked to dispose of their drugs to chemists and druggists who have qualified compounders."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—"May I know, Sir, whether the age-limit for the recruitment of compounders to Government service has also been correspondingly increased?"

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—"Yes, Sir, their age-limit has been raised from 25 to 30."